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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KING et al.

Group Art Unit: 1714

#19/fm

Serial No.: 09/631,412

Examiner: C. Shosho

06.12.03

Filed: August 3, 2000

Date: June 3, 2003

For: INK JET PRINTING METHOD

Commissioner For Patents
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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C.S.

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated February 4, 2003, in the above-identified application. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for permitting a telephone interview on March 6, 2003. During the interview Applicants explained why they believed that the phrase "substantially retained within the upper protective layer" would not be indefinite under 35 USC 112, paragraph 2, to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the specification. The Examiner requested that Applicants submit a declaration discussing how one of ordinary skilled in the art would conclude from Figure 1 and Example 3 the meaning of "substantially retained" within the upper protective layer.

Enclosed with the present Amendment is a Declaration from Jeffrey Ronald King, one of the named inventors of the Application. Mr. King describes the research that led to the invention and the testing that was the subject of Example 3 and Figure 1. He explains that visual inspection of a section of a color print produced in the same manner as Example 3 illustrates a dense image in the upper protective layer with no observable residual colorant on the surface and no significant breakthrough of colorant onto the ink receiving layer. Based on his observation, he concludes that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is meant by "substantially retained" within the upper protective layer.

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In view of the above arguments, the indefiniteness rejection has been overcome.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of pending claims 17-30 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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